

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /055 W

----- 117769

O R 110430Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9700

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSSAG/7AF, NKP THAI

CINCPAC PA LNO BANGKOK THAI

COMMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK THAI

7AF/SOA UTAPAO AFLD THAI

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 4337

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, EAID, SOPN, CB, US

SUBJ: BIRD C-130 TAKES SHRAPNEL HIT

1. EMBASSY LEARNED THROUGH USIA WIRELESS FILE COVERAGE OF DOD MORNING BRIEFING MARCH 10 THAT BEECHER HAD ANNOUNCED THAT FOR FIRST TIME A C-130 WAS STRUCK AT POCHENTONG AIRFIELD BY ENEMY FIRE, WHEN WHAT WAS APPARENTLY A PIECE OF SHRAPNEL TORE THROUGH THE UNDERSIDE OF THE PLANE WHILE IT WAS MAKING ITS LANDING APPROACH MARCH 9. BEECHER SAID THE HIT CAUSED A THREE-INCH GASH BUT NO OTHER DAMAGE WAS SUSTAINED AND NONE OF THE CREW WERE HURT. (ACTUALLY, INCIDENT MUST HAVE OCCURRED MARCH 10 PHNOM PENH TIME).

2. MEDTC OFFICER TELEPHONED UTAPAO AND LEARNED THAT INCIDENT HAD BEEN REPORTED TO DOD IN AN AIR FORCE OPERATIONS REPORT, NOT REPEATED TO PHNOM PENH. HE ORALLY REQUESTED THAT IN THE FUTURE SUCH INFORMATION
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BE FORWARDED HERE AS WELL. SINCE WE HAVE LARGE AND

VERY ACTIVE PRESS CORPS HERE IN PHNOM PENH, WE WOULD
LIKE TO BE IN A POSITION TO PLACE SUCH REPORTS IN
PROPER PERSPECTIVE LOCALLY, IF NEED BE, BEFORE SUCH
AN INCIDENT BECOMES UNDULY MAGNIFIED. IN ADDITION,
LOCALLY-BASED US PERSONNEL CONCERNED WITH VARIOUS ASPECTS
OF AIRLIFT HAVE CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN SUCH MATTERS. WE
GATHER THE DAMAGE WAS DISCOVERED ONLY AFTER THE AIRCRAFT
RETURNED TO UTAPAO.
DEAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY AIRCRAFT, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PHNOM04337
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750084-0657
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750362/aaaacdwn.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BIRD C-130 TAKES SHRAPNEL HIT
TAGS: MOPS, EAID, SOPN, CB, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006